



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN OPPOSES SUPER MILITARY DEVICES FOR SAUDIS

In a strongly worded letter to President Reagan, Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), has expressed "unalterable opposition to the Administration's plans to sell extremely advanced and complex aircraft equipment to Saudi Arabia." The equipment proposal includes sale of Fuel and Sensor Tactical packs and air-to-air missiles for F-15's. There are reports that the Defense Department is also recommending the sale of AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System). AWACS is, by far, the most powerful aircraft equipment yet to be developed.

According to Waxman, a staunch Congressional supporter of Israel, the proposed sales would completely and perhaps permanently throw the balance of power in the Middle East against Israel. Waxman also expressed the belief that these military devices might, under some circumstances, come to be used directly against the United States, Israel or other American allies.

The power of these devices is absolutely mind-boggling. Minute movements of Israeli troops, airplanes, or tanks over hundreds of miles away would be instantly registered with perfect accuracy. Most important, these devices would turn the most inept pilot into a superman by giving detailed strategic directions.

Waxman said his primary concern was that the equipment would be used by the Saudis against Israel or "lent" by the Saudis to one of the Arab countries in the event of another Middle East war.

The Congressman also expressed "grave misgivings" about American reliance on the permanence and stability of the Saudi government.

"How do we know that what happened in Iran will not be repeated in Saudi Arabia? Will these super-sophisticated military devices end up in the hands of an anti-American Saudi government dominated by the military or by Islamic fanatics? Are we arming our future enemies?"

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